



Compost bins provide somewhere to dispose of grass cuttings and other green waste without sending to landfill. An ideal compost heap contains a mix of material: grass cuttings, coarse grass, dead leaves and cardboard. It should be turned at least once or twice a year.

Suitability	Low to medium density housing (compost heap) and high density housing (compost bins).
Management type	Green waste recycling. This option would work well as a companion activity with 'create vegetable plots' and 'flowering shrubs and containers'.
Supplier information	<p>Could purchase compost bin(s) from local council (in partnership with Straight Manufacturing Ltd).</p> <p>Alternatively, build a compost heap as part of community engagement activity e.g. through Garden Organic: http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk.</p>
Community engagement?	Yes – mainly for volunteer residents of low/medium density housing – could help build a compost heap.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides somewhere to dispose of grass cuttings and other green waste without sending to landfill. • Offers additional shelter, foraging and hibernation habitat for a range of species including invertebrates, small mammals and reptiles. • Provides free compost to use on site to increase the organic content in the soil and can also be used as mulch to retain soil moisture and reduce the amount of artificial fertiliser needed.
Costs/Disbenefit	Financial cost: Low – staff and volunteer time/expenses.
Level of ongoing maintenance	High.



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SUSTAINABILITY

Build and install compost bins

		Notes
How achieved	<p>Install compost bins in a suitable area.</p> <p>Building two bays to the compost bin allows one bay to be actively filled over the growing season whilst the other bay is left to compost.</p> <p>An ideal compost heap contains a mix of material: grass cuttings, coarse grass, dead leaves and cardboard. It should be turned at least once or twice a year and can produce compost fairly quickly.</p>	
Timing of activity	Any time.	
Long-term management	In the autumn, empty the composted side. Use or give to volunteers. Put any material which has not composted into the second bay and start to fill the now empty first bay with grass cuttings.	